



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
09.04.1997 Bulletin 1997/15

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **F26B 11/18**

(43) Date of publication A2:
20.11.1996 Bulletin 1996/47

(21) Application number: **96103476.6**

(22) Date of filing: **29.08.1994**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IT LI NL PT SE

(30) Priority: **02.09.1993 US 116032**
02.09.1993 US 116064
02.09.1993 US 116114
02.09.1993 US 116071

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
94927961.6 / 0 720 432

(71) Applicants:
• **Riviana Foods, Inc.**
Houston, Texas 77019 (US)
• **SATAKE CORPORATION**
Higashi, Hiroshima-shi 724 (JP)

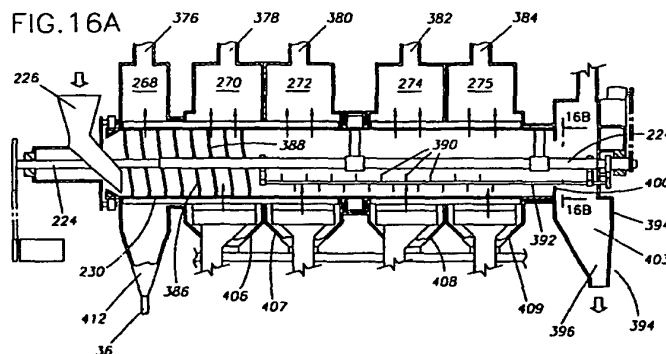
(72) Inventors:
• **Kendall, John Hugh**
Sugar Land, TX 77478 (US)
• **Mohindra, Ranvir B.**
Houston, TX 77071 (US)
• **Rutherford, Duane S.**
Houston, TX 77066 (US)
• **Kanamoto, Sigeharu**
Hiroshima-ken 723 (JP)
• **Satake, Satoru**
Tokyo 143 (JP)
• **Kumamoto, Katsuyuki**
Hiroshima-ken 723 (JP)

(74) Representative: **Frankland, Nigel Howard**
FORRESTER & BOEHMERT
Franz-Joseph-Strasse 38
80801 München (DE)

(54) **Method and apparatus for drying a food granule slurry**

(57) Water and wet food granules are fed to a perforated rotating barrel (230) in which the food granules move in a longitudinal direction, the barrel having separately controllable temperature zones (268,270,272,274), and a blower (222) for blowing air

past the food granules along a path that passes through perforations in the barrel (230), crosses an inner space within the barrel, and exists through perforations in the barrel.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 10 3476

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X Y	GB 691 522 A (PENN ET AL) * the whole document *	1,2,5,10 3,4,6,7, 9	F26B11/18
Y	DE 39 02 271 A (GEBRÜDER BÜHLER AG) * figure 11 *	3	
Y A	US 2 440 524 A (RAINS) * the whole document *	4 3	
Y	EP 0 129 518 A (WASHPLAST DI FACCHINI ADO) * the whole document *	6	
Y	US 4 649 055 A (KOHLWEY) * the whole document *	7,9	
X	CH 212 600 A (JENNY) * the whole document *	1,2,5,10	
X	US 2 877 563 A (SCHERER) * the whole document *	1,5,10	
X	DE 16 32 157 A (FA. WILH. QUESTER) * the whole document *	1,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) F26B
A	US 1 571 076 A (WARREN) * the whole document *	1,10	
A	US 2 675 629 A (FISHER) * the whole document *	6	
A	GB 1 239 072 A (AXIA FANS LIMITED) * the whole document *	8	
A	FR 919 663 A (ANCIENS ATELIERS VICTOR CHARPENTIER & CIE.)		
A	CH 229 145 A (GEBRÜDER BÜHLER)		
-/--			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 February 1997	Examiner Silvis, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 (03.92) (P04001)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 10 3476

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	CH 245 154 A (JENNY) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 February 1997	Examiner Silvis, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1501 (04/91) (P0401)